

TOOELE COUNTY (UTAH). COUNTY RECORDER

[1166]

MINING RECORDS, 1885-1955.

17 microfilm reels

DESCRIPTION: Tooele County mining record books predominantly contain notices of location (mining claims) filed in the County recorder's office. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, gold, copper, silver, lead, mercury, and zinc were mined extensively in Tooele County. One of Tooele County's largest mining camps, Mercur (in the Camp Floyd Mining District), constructed a cyanide mill for processing gold. The Mercur mill enhanced local ability to extract gold from ore, and led to increased activity among miners searching for and mining gold. Each mine began with the discovery of a potentially productive site and the recording of a notice of location. Federal mining law enacted in 1872 provided that valuable mineral deposits were free and open to exploration and that the locators of the same were to have exclusive right of possession (*Statutes at Large, Treaties, and Proclamations, of the United States of America*, vol. 17, chap. 152, also *Revised Statutes of the United States*, chap. 6, title 32). Each notice of location affirms that the locator had complied with federal and local mining laws. Each notice provides a description of the claim, identifies it by a unique name, gives the mining district in which it was located, and provides the names of locators. Notices provide dates of location and recording and are signed by the Tooele County recorder.

In addition to notices of location, Tooele County mining record books include agreements relating to mining, amendments to notices of location, and affidavits showing proof of annual assessment labor. In order to maintain or patent a claim, the law required that miners do development work. Utah law required that they to file an affidavit in the county recorder's office upon completion of this work (*Utah Code Annotated*, 1953, 40-1-6). Each affidavit verifies the completion of at least \$100 worth of labor on a specific claim and itemizes what that labor entailed. In 1893 and 1894 Congress temporarily suspended the annual work requirement, but required miners to file their intention to maintain the claim. Many records of intent to hold a claim were recorded in 1893-1894. After 1903 Tooele County mining record

books include many notices of location for petroleum claims in addition to location notices for hard rock minerals.

During Utah's territorial period location notices and other mining records were primarily kept in each separate mining district. Tooele County mining record books contain additional or duplicate copies of location notices and other records for Tooele County mining districts, including Camp Floyd, Rush Valley, Ophir, Clifton, Dugway, Tooele City, and the North Tintic District of Juab County. Book B is a full and complete transcript of Book B for the Camp Floyd Mining District. Tooele County mining records include mining records for numerous small districts such Shambip, Willow Springs, Third Term, Blue Bell, Erickson, Free Coinage, Lakeside, and Columbia. Utah territorial law required that mining district by-laws be recorded by the county recorder in which the mining district operated. These mining record books contain by-laws for the Rush Valley District (Book C, page 511), the Hercules District (Book D, page 374), the Russell District (Book D, page 377), the Shambip District (Book D, page 379), the Free Coinage District (Book D, page 386), the Mercur District (Book D, page 431), the Blue Bell District (Book D page 493), and the Camp Floyd District (Book D page 567).

ARRANGEMENT: Many notices of location in Tooele County were filled out and recorded on preprinted forms. The Tooele County recorder separated these preprinted notices of location from hand-written notices and other mining records. Preprinted location notices comprise books E, F, H, K, P, Q, S, T, V, X, Y, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2F, 2G, part of books D and G). Documents in all other books are hand written and are not separated by document type. Within each book, documents were recorded in roughly chronological order.

RESEARCH NOTE: These books were microfilmed with the camera head upside down, and therefore the images are in reverse order on the reel. In order to read the entries in chronological order, a researcher will need to read the microfilm backwards.

RELATED RECORDS: Tooele County recorders kept several indexes or finding aids to facilitate the use of these mining records. A GENERAL MINING INDEX, series 24174, provides reference to all mining-related documents including those recorded in these books and those recorded in other record books. A LOCATION NOTICES INDEX, series 24176, provides reference to location notices, which were primarily recorded in these mining record books. The MINING DISTRICTS INDEX, series 24182, provides reference to mining records based on the mining district in which the claim was located. Tooele County recorders also kept MINING CLAIMS ABSTRACTS, series 24562, in which they chronologically listed each recorded document for each individual mining claim. Mining deeds, patents, and many other mining-related documents, including notices of location recorded before 1885, were recorded in DEEDS, series 6080. Numerous mining districts operated in Tooele County. The largest ones were Rush Valley, Camp Floyd, Ophir, and Clifton. Ophir District MINING RECORDS are series 24165; Clifton District LOCATION NOTICES are series 24331; Rush

Valley District MINING RECORDS are series 24160; and Camp Floyd District MINING RECORDS are series 10334. The Ophir and Clifton Districts continued to keep their own records long after state statute ordered them to turn this responsibility over to the county recorder. (For a complete list of Tooele County mining districts for which Utah State Archives has processed holdings, see mining claims research guide.

PROCESSING NOTE: Mining record books kept by the Tooele County recorder were processed by Rosemary Cundiff in November 2002.

PREFERRED CITATION: Cite the Utah State Archives and Records Service, the creating agency name, the series title, and the series number.

GAPS: Utah State Archives holds mining record books for the Tooele County for 1885-1917. However, based on index references, Tooele County recorders continued to keep the mining record books until 1955 when they began recording notices of location in official record books. For mining records, 1917-ongoing, contact the Tooele County recorder.

CONTAINER LIST

Reel	Description
1	Book A (1885, Dec-1890, Oct; assorted mining records)
1	Book B p. 1-310 (transcript of Book B of Camp Floyd District)
2	Book B p. 311-792 (transcript Camp Floyd; 1871-1893)
2	Book C (1891, Sep-1894, Dec; assorted mining records)
2	Book D p. 1-105 (1894, Nov-1895, May; preprinted location notices)
3	Book D p. 106-640 (1894, Dec-1897, Aug; preprinted notices & assorted records)
3	Book E (1896, Jan-Jul; preprinted location notices)
4	Book F (1896, Jul-1900, Jun; preprinted location notices)
4	Book G, p. 1-484 (1897, Aug-1898, Dec; location notices and assorted records)
5	Book G p. 485-640 (1897, Dec-1898, Jan; assorted mining records)
5	Book H (1898, Dec-1900, Feb; preprinted location notices)
5	Book I, p. 1-424 (1897, Dec-1898, Dec; assorted mining records)

Reel	Description
6	Book I, p. 425-640 (1898, Dec-1899, May; assorted mining records)
6	Book J (1899, Jan-1900, Jan; assorted mining records)
6	Book K p. 1-368 (1899, May-1900, Jan; preprinted location notices)
7	Book K p. 369-640 (1900, Jan-1900, Sep; preprinted location notices)
7	Book L (1899, Sep-1901, Feb; assorted mining records)
7	Book M p. 1-294 (1900, Jan, assorted mining records)
8	Book M p. 295-640 (1900, Jan-1901, Mar; assorted mining records)
8	Book N (1900, Oct-1902, Feb; preprinted location notices)
8	Book O p. 1-208 (1901, Mar-1902, Jan; assorted mining records)
9	Book O p. 209-640 (1902, Jan-1904, Feb; assorted mining records)
9	Book P (1902, Feb-1903, Jul; preprinted location notices)
9	Book Q p. 1-132 (1902, Jan-1902, Jul; preprinted location notices)
10	Book Q p. 133-640 (1902, Jan-1904, Mar; preprinted location notices)
10	Book R (1901, Nov-1904, Apr; assorted mining documents)
10	Book S p. 1-120 (1904, Mar-1905, Jan; preprinted location notices)
11	Book S p. 121-624 (1905, Jan-1906, Jul; preprinted location notices)
11	Book T (1903, Jul-1905, Mar; preprinted location notices)
12	Book U (1904, Mar-1906, Aug; assorted mining documents; petroleum claims)
12	Book V p. 1-586 (1905, Mar-1907, Mar; preprinted location notices)
13	Book V p. 587-640 (1907, Mar-Jul; preprinted location notices)
13	Book W (1906, Aug-1908, Mar; assorted mining records)
13	Book X (1907, Jan-1908, Sep; preprinted location notices)
13	Book Y p. 1-188, (1907, Jul-1909, Jan; preprinted location notices)
14	Book Y p. 189-638 (1909, Jan-1913, Jan; preprinted location notices)

Reel	Description
14	Book Z (1908, Mar-1911, Jan; assorted documents; petroleum claims)
14	Book 2A p. 1-146 (1909, Jun-1910, Jan; location notices only)
15	Book 2A p. 147-638 (1910, Jan-1912, Nov; preprinted location notices)
15	Book 2B (1911, Jan-1914, Apr; assorted mining documents; petroleum claims)
15	Book 2C p. 1-276 (1912, Nov-1913, Aug; preprinted location notices)
16	Book 2C p. 277-480 (1913, Aug-1914, Feb; location notices only)
16	Book 2D (1913, Jan-1916, Jul; preprinted location notices)
16	Book 2E (1914, Apr-1916, Apr; assorted documents; petroleum claims)
16	Book 2F p. 1-276 (1914, Apr-1915, Dec; preprinted location notices)
17	Book 2F p. 277-500 (1915, Dec-1916, Mar; preprinted location notices)
17	Book 2G (1916, Apr-1917, Feb; preprinted location notices)